Deployment-Related Coding
Excerpts from
Military Health System Coding Guidance:
Professional Services and Specialty Coding Guidelines Version 2.0
Unified Biostatistical Utility
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Chapter 2 DIAGNOSTIC CODING

2.2.8. *V* Codes—Factors Influencing Health

2.2.8.2. DoD-Unique *V*-Code Guidance for Assessments, Exams, Education, and Counseling

DoD extender codes have been paired with selected *V* codes to further specify military unique services. The addition of DoD extender codes to the root code enables differentiation of the types of health assessments.

V70.5_0   Armed Forces medical exam: This is the initial general accession exam. For pre-enlistment, this initial qualifying exam is a "yes*"* test that a person meets the requirements to join the military. Excludes exams covered under V70.5_8 Special Program Accession Exam.

V70.5_1   Aviation Exam: Initial qualifying and any recurring aviation exam.

V70.5_2   Periodic Health Assessments (PHA) or Prevention Exam: Includes service member PHA Exams documented on DD2766.

V70.5_3   Occupational exam: Both initial qualifying and recurring exams because the individual works in a specific occupation or in support of occupational medicine programs (workers' compensation). Examples include: diving, firefighter, Personal Reliability Program (PRP), protection of the president, crane operator and submariner. For return to duty following a non-aviation occupation-related condition, use V70.5_7.

V70.5_4   Pre-Deployment Related Encounter: Encounter related to a projected deployment. Could include family members experiencing a condition related to the projected deployment of the sponsor or other family member. Excludes V70.5_D which codes the encounter documented on the DD2795.

V70.5_5   Intra-Deployment encounter: Any deployment-related encounter performed while individual (active duty [AD], contractor, etc.) is deployed. Could include family members experiencing a condition related to the deployment of the sponsor or other family member.

V70.5_6   Post-deployment related encounter: Specifically performed because an individual was deployed. Could include family members experiencing a condition related to a prior deployment of the sponsor or other family member. Excludes V70.5_E and V70.5_F which code the encounters documented on the DD2796 and DD2900.

V70.5_7   Duty Status Determination encounter: Used for service members when the primary reason for being seen is to determine the ability to perform their duties. Includes determination or change in status of temporary or permanent duty limitations, deployment limiting conditions, temporary and permanent duty retirement list (TDRL/PDRL), medical evaluation board (MEB) assessments, and return to duty following pregnancy or surgery and treatment. Excludes return to dive/flight status (e.g., upchit) which is V68.0.

V70.5_8   Special Program Accession Encounter: A special medical examination on individuals being considered for special programs *prior* to Service entry. Exams are usually for officer candidates (Reserve Officer Training Corps [ROTC] programs, college graduates, professional schools, etc.) Other examples are DoD Medical Review Board exams, Health Professional School Program (HPSP) exams, and supplemental exams in support of Medical Examination Processing Stations.

V70.5_9   Separation/Termination/Retirement Exam: Examination performed at the end of employment and for retirement or separation.

V70.5_A   Health Exam of defined subpopulations: Performed on a person in a specified group (refugees, prisoners, preschool children, etc.) other than exams identified above. Includes examinations related to the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) and Overseas Screening.

V70.5_B   Abbreviated Separation/Termination/Retirement Exam: This code would be used when a partial examination is done within a defined period after a complete examination as an

update. Guidance for abbreviated separation, termination or retirement exam will be provided by each service.

V70.5_C Physical Readiness Test (PRT) Evaluation: Evaluation of service member by a provider who is privileged to determine participation in Physical Fitness Assessment program (PFA) or physical conditioning.

V70.5_D Pre-Deployment Assessment: Documented on DD2795.

V70.5_E Initial Post-Deployment Assessment: Documented on DD2796.

V70.5_F Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA): Documented on DD2900.

2.2.8.3. Deployment Related Assessments

To proactively and reactively provide healthcare related to deployments, the DoD must be able to identify healthcare needs caused by deployments. Codes V70.5_4/5/6/D/E/F are to be used as a primary diagnosis for an exam, assessment, or screening encounter when the purpose of the encounter is specifically deployment related.

Codes V70.5_4/5/6/D/E/F will be used in the subsequent diagnosis positions when the primary purpose of the encounter was not specifically deployment related, but "deployment related" concerns were found that should be coded as additional diagnoses.

 Example: An AD member who recently returned from deployment presents to clinic for an evaluation of a rash. The provider evaluates the patient and diagnoses the patient with cutaneous leishmaniasis related to his recent deployment to Iraq. The primary diagnosis in this scenario is 085.9 (unspecified cutaneous leishmaniasis) and the secondary code would be V70.5_6. If during this encounter the provider discovers that the patient has not completed his DD2976 and has the patient complete it, then V70.5_E should be added as an additional diagnosis.

2.2.8.4. Reporting Scenarios for V70.5 Extender Codes. [*]

PRT (V70.5_C)
Prior to doing Physical Readiness Testing all service members must complete a PRT screening questionnaire. If all answers are "no" the member is not referred for further follow up and completes the PRT. There is no medical encounter or coding. If any answers are "yes" the member comes in for a medical evaluation.

  1. Service Member has a known medical problem, example post ACL. Provider does not do an exam of the Service Member. Service Member is issued a waiver from PRT. Use E&M 99499 and ICD-9 code V 70.5_C.

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[*]www.pdhealth.mil

2. Service Member is referred for medical evaluation based upon answers on the questionnaire. Provider reviews assessment and determines Service Member is cleared for PRT. Use E&M 99420 and ICD-9 code V70.5_C.

3. Service Member is referred for medical evaluation based upon answers on the questionnaire. Provider reviews the assessment and finds the patient requires further evaluation and management. The encounter should be coded based on documentation and code V70.5_C as primary and other diagnoses as additional.

Pre-deployment (DD Form 2795) (V70.5_D)
Data from these forms are not being collected for coding. Collection is for military readiness to ensure assessment is done prior to deployment.

1. The form is reviewed by a non-privileged provider. Code E&M placeholder 99499 and the ICD-9 code V70.5_D.

2. The privileged provider reviews the form and makes a final medical disposition. Code E&M 99420 and the ICD-9 code V70.5_D.

3. The provider identifies, addresses and documents a medical problem. The encounter should be coded based on documentation and code V70.5_D as primary and other diagnoses as additional.

Post Deployment Assessments (V70.5_E/F)
Exams will always be conducted by a face to face encounter with a privileged provider.

Initial Post Deployment (DD Form 2796) (V70.5_E)

1. If the purpose of the encounter is to complete the DD Form 2796 by the privileged provider and no medical conditions are found, code V70.5_E first and use 99420 for the E&M.

2. If the purpose of the encounter is to complete the DD Form 2796 and assessment and medical evaluation identifies medical conditions requiring treatment, code V70.5_E first and then code appropriate ICD9 codes. Use 99420 for the E&M code and additional E&M based on the documentation with modifier 25.

3. If during an encounter for other reasons, it is determined that a required DD Form 2796 has not been completed, code the appropriate ICD9 code for the principal reason for the visit and use code V70.5_E in the first four diagnosis codes. Use appropriate office visit E&M code based on the documentation.

Post Deployment Health Reassessment (PDHRA) Exams (DD Form 2900) (V70.5_F)

Encounters involving completion of the DD Form 2900, should be coded in the same manner as specified for DD Form 2796 Initial Post-Deployment Assessment, substituting V70.5_F in place of V70.5_E.

Type of Patient	Example	Primary Diagnosis	2nd, 3rd or 4th Dx Code
Symptoms, Pre-Deployment-Related	New onset bed wetting of 5-yr-old boy whose mother is about to leave on 12 month deployment.	788.36 (nocturnal enuresis)	V70.5_4
Asymptomatic Concerned, Post-Deployment-Related	AD soldier recently returned from deployment. Pregnant wife has concerns about depleted uranium exposure.	V65.5 (person with feared complaint)	V70.5_ 6
Symptoms, Intra-Deployment-Related	13-yr-old girl with significant weight loss. Mother suspects concern is related to father's current deployment to Iraq.	783.21 (abnormal weight loss)	V70.5_ 5
Symptoms, Intra-Deployment-Related	23-yr-old Marine developed poison ivy rash while deployed.	692.6 (contact dermatitis caused by plants)	V70.5_ 5
Medically Unexplained Physical Symptoms, Deployment-Related	49-yr-old retired beneficiary has been evaluated over 3 months (5 visits) for intermittent joint pain, intermittent vertigo and severe fatigue. Patient says he believes he was exposed to something in Kuwait on mission two years ago. Work-up to date is complete, but negative.	799.8 (other ill-defined conditions and unknown causes of morbidity)	V70.5_ 6

This guidance is subject to change. More detailed information on program management is at http://www.pdhealth.mil/.

Chapter 6 SPECIALTY CODING

6.2. Audiology

6.2.2. Diagnosis Coding Rules

> **DoD Rule**
>
> **Deployment-related encounters will code one of the following: V70.5_4 for pre-deployment, V70.5_5 during deployment, or V70.5_6 for post-deployment related conditions. See section 2.2.8.2.**

6.6. Flight Medicine Services

6.6.2. Diagnosis Coding Rules

> **DoD Rule**
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> **Annual flight exams are reported with V70.5_1 as the first listed diagnosis. Any pre-existing or newly diagnosed conditions are listed as additional diagnoses.**
>
> **Encounters for post-deployment conditions (confirmed or suspected) will have the reason for the encounter listed in the primary diagnosis field with V70.5_6 listed as a secondary code. This rule takes precedence over any other diagnosis coding rule.**

6.11. Occupational Therapy

6.11.2.2. Occupational Therapy Evaluation
Occupational therapy encounters for the purpose of evaluation only or group educational classes (no therapy done during the encounter) are not identified by V57.21.

> **DoD Rule**
>
> **V57.21 will be the first listed code for all occupational therapy encounters involving therapy only. The condition(s) for which the patient is receiving therapy are listed in the second or third position. Occupational therapy encounters for post-deployment therapy sessions have V70.5_6 as the third or fourth listed code.**

> **If there is no therapy involved, V70.5_6 is still the first listed code with the patient's physical condition listed second.**

6.12. Ophthalmology/Optometry

6.12.2.1. Routine Exams Active Duty (DoD Unique Visits)

Encounters for DoD unique visits, such as aviation, military school screening, periodic, or termination exams, are reported using V70.5 with the appropriate extender (e.g., Aviation exam V70.5_1). Any condition diagnosed during the examination is listed as an additional diagnosis.

V CODES	DESCRIPTION
V70.5 0	Armed Forces Medical Examination
V70.5 1	Aviation Examination
V70.5 2	Periodic Prevention Examination
V70.5 3	Occupational Examination
V70.5 4	Pre-Deployment Examination
V70.5 5	During Deployment Examination
V70.5 6	Post-Deployment Examination
V70.5 7	Fitness for Duty Examination
V70.5 8	Accession Examination
V70.5 9	Termination Examination

> **DoD Rule**
>
> **Encounters for post-deployment related conditions have V70.5_6 as the primary diagnosis and the patient's physical condition listed second.**

6.13. Physical Therapy—Coding for Physical Therapist or Technician

6.13.2.2. Evaluative PT

PT encounters for evaluation only, or for attending runner's clinics, or group educational classes, would *not* be identified by V57.1. Exercise counseling (e.g., runner's clinic) is an education *V* code, V65.41. If the purpose of the encounter is evaluation, use the appropriate ICD-9-CM diagnosis or symptom code in the first SADR position.

> **DoD Rule**
>
> **V57.1 will be the first listed code for all PT encounters involving therapy only. The condition(s) for which the patient is receiving therapy will be listed in the second or third position. PT encounters for post-deployment therapy sessions will have V70.5_6 as the third or fourth code.**

6.14. Preventive Medicine Services

6.14.1.2. Diagnosis Coding Rules

6.14.1.2.2. Post-Deployment Visits

The provider should assess if the visit is deployment related. All **deployment-related visits** must have the deployment code listed in one of the first four positions. See section 2.2.8.2. of this manual. The deployment related codes are V70.5_4/5/6.